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EKATERINA KOCHETKOVA. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract. The article examines the current demographic and socio-economic situation in Malaysia, the peculiarities of the ethno-confessional

structure of Malaysian society, as well as key factors contributing to the successful economic development of the country, despite the difficult global situation and a number of internal problems faced by the government headed by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Malaysia, known for its rich cultural traditions and beautiful tropical landscapes, contrasting with modern dynamic cities, can rightfully be called the economic center of Southeast Asia. The country is divided by the South China Sea into two regions: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia on the island of Kalimantan. Peninsular Malaysia shares a land border with Thailand, while East Malaysia borders Indonesia and Brunei. Its maritime borders divide Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines.

According to the latest UN data as of January 25, 2025, the population of Malaysia amounted to 35,795,710 people [1]. It ranks 44th in the world in terms of population and 18th in Asia. Malaysia accounts for 0,44 per cent of the world's population and 0,74 per cent of the population of Asia [2].

According to experts, the country's population in mid-2025 will reach 35,977,838 people. The average age of Malaysian residents is 31 years [3].

As of January 2025, Malaysia's population density was 105 people per square kilometer (272,3/mi²). According to the United Nations Statistics Division, Malaysia has a total area of 329,740 km² (127,313 mi²). The total area is the sum of the land and water areas within the international borders and its coastline. The population density is calculated as the constant number of Malaysian residents divided by the total area of the country [4].

However, these indicators do not reflect the real situation completely, since only coastal zones can be considered well-inhabited, while dispersed small semi-nomadic groups of aborigines who do not actively participate in the economic life of the country live on high grounds covered with dense vegetation of impenetrable jungle. In peninsular Malaysia, more than 70 per